

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00545 271054Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 SY-05  
/103 W

-----053310 271058Z /21/46

P 260935Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6623  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0545

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PGOV, PLO, JO  
SUBJECT: KHALED AL-HASAN CLAIMS HUSSEIN CONTACTED THE PLO

1. LOCAL BUSINESSMAN TOLD EMBOFF THAT KHALED AL-HASAN, WHO  
IS HIS CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND, HAD BROKEN OFF HIS  
VISIT TO SYRIA AND RUSHED BACK TO BEIRUT AT NOON JAN 25  
UPON RECEIVING WORD THAT "THE PLO HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM  
KING HUSSEIN." PRIOR TO LEAVING AL-HASAN HAD SEEN PRES. ASSAD.

2. AL-HASAN TOLD BUSINESSMAN THAT HE AND SOME OTHER PLO  
MODERATES HAD BEEN PULLING FOR SADAT AND WERE DISAPPOINTED  
THAT HIS INITIATIVE HAD NOT ACHIEVED ANY RESULTS FOR THE  
PALESTINIANS. HE WARNED THAT A FAILURE OF THE US TO EXTRACT  
MAJOR CONCESSIONS FROM THE ISRAELIS ON THE PALESTINIAN  
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QUESTION WOULD LEAD TO A RAPID EXPANSION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN  
THE AREA AND FURTHER ERODE THE POSITION OF THE MODERATES  
WITHIN THE PLO.

3. AL-HASAN COMMENTED HE BELIEVED A NUMBER OF ISRAELIS WERE WITH THE  
RIGHTISTS IN LEBANON AND THAT RENEWED FIGHTING AT  
ISRAELI INSTIGATION COULD BREAK OUT. AL-HASAN SAID THAT

SHTAURA AGREEMENT WAS NO LONGER DISCUSSED BETWEEN SYRIA AND THE PLO.

4. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT IRAQ WAS OUT TO SELECTIVELY ELIMINATE MODERATE PLO LEADERS AND BELIEVED THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER HANI WERE POSSIBLE TARGETS. HE IMPLIED THAT IRAQIS HAD HAND IN KILLING OF LONDON PLO REP SAID HAMMAMI AND FARFETCHEDLY SPECULATED THAT JORDANIAN GID TRACKED BRITISH CORRESPONDENT HOLDEN FROM AMMAN TO CAIRO AND HAD HIM KILLED THERE "BECAUSE HE KNEW TOO MUCH ABOUT HUSSEIN'S CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELIS."

5. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE READ REPORTS THAT HUSSEIN IS READY TO RESUME THE DIALOGUE WITH THE PLO IF APPROACHED, THIS IS FIRST INDICATION WE HAVE RECEIVED THAT KING MAY HAVE SEIZED THE INITIATIVE.  
MURPHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLEGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 jan 1978  
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**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, JO, PLO, (HUSSEIN I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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